Rail accidents

†410. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of accidents have taken place resulting in scores of deaths;

(b) whether Government have pondered over recurrence of such accidents at frequent intervals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the current year 2005-06, up to 31.10.2005, there have been 141* consequential train accidents resulting in 232* deaths and 505* injuries.

(b) to (d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and the monitoring and review of the safety performance is a continuous exercise. Suitable remedial steps, as warranted, are also undertaken. The Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC)-1998, in its report made a total of 278 recommendations, of which 240 have been accepted/partially accepted. 167 of these have been already implemented upto October, 2005 and the remaining are at various stages of implementation.

Broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

411. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sourthern Railway administration has urged Government to give priority to broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu making out a case and justification; and

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†Original notice of the question was reeeived in Hindi

(*All figures are provisional)

(b) whether it is a fact that quick conversion is imperative in the wake of container traffic growth, increase in the freight revenue, convenience of passengers and traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On a reference from Ministry, Southern Railway has given details and justification of conversion of left over section from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge, which have not been taken up so far.

(b) A total of 1187 kms of gauge conversion of 2907 kms of metre gauge has been completed in Tamil Nadu and works are in progress for 1104 kms. 263 kms of gauge conversion is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

Gauge conversion in Southern Railway

412 DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the stage of broad gauge conversion at all India level and out of which how much is yet to be done in Southern Railway and in Tamil Nadu in particular;

(b) when and how this neglect of regional imbalance can be set right by completing the broad gauge conversions in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether there can be a time-frame for broad gauge conversion between Manamadurai and Rameswaram and between Trichy and Manamadurai; and

(d) how the link between Mandapam and Rameswaram across the sea has been proposed and when it will be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Position of gauge conversion in All India and Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2005 is as under:—

(Figures in kms)

	All India	Tamil Nadu
Total Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge line	27349	2907
Work completed	11463	1187
Work in Progress	8298	1104